

REMARKS

By the current amendment, Applicant corrects minor informalities in claim 9. In particular, Applicant has amended claim 9 to clarify that the various recitations of a "vertical transfer passage" in claim 9 refers to the same "vertical transfer passage".

Although this amendment is being submitted after the mailing of the Notice of Allowance and although amendments may not be made as a matter of right after the mailing of the Notice of Allowance, Applicant submits that the entry of the herein contained amendment is appropriate to ensure clarity of the claim language and accordingly, respectfully requests the Examiner to exercise his discretion and indicate the entry of the amendment contained therein under the provisions of 37 C.F.R. 1.312.

The changes introduced by the amendment contained above do not continue the prosecution of the application after the Notice of Allowance. Rather, these amendments merely enhance, strengthen and reinforce the clarity of the language of the claims previously indicated to be allowable by the Examiner. Accordingly, it is submitted that these amendments are proper for entry at the present time.

The above amendments further do not require a substantial amount of additional work on the part of the Patent and Trademark Office. The Examiner has already considered the reasons for patentability of the present invention. No new issues are raised by the above-amendment. Accordingly, Applicant submits that under the criteria set forth in the M.P.E.P, the present amendments should be considered and their entry should be recommended by the Primary Examiner.

For all of the above reasons, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner enter the

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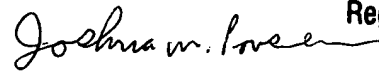
present amendments to the claims. Entry of the above amendment is believed to be appropriate and is respectfully requested from the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office.

Should there be any questions or comments, the Examiner is requested to contact the undersigned at the below-listed telephone number.

Respectfully submitted,
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